

## Peru - Northern - 21 February 1996



A large earthquake (magnitude 7.8) off the northern coastal region of Peru generated a local tsunami. The tsunami affected a 590 km coastal area extending from Pascasmayo, in the department of La Libertad, to the Port of Callao near Lima. The tsunami killed 12, injured 54 (one gravely), damaged 37 homes (15 completely destroyed) and 25 boats (2 destroyed). Some of the fatalities were to line fishermen who were caught on the rocks by the tsunamis. Additional fatalities occurred in the area of Santa, north of Coishco and at the beach of Campo Santa. In the town of Coishco a 30-meter long brick wall was destroyed and several houses were damaged by the waves. At the Port of Chimbote the tsunami inundated 800 m landward of the main dock,

overturned a truck and transported a steel guard shack for a distance of 20 m. No major damage was reported. There was flooding at Bahia Los Chimus, about 30 Km south of Chimbote all the way to the town's plaza.

What is interesting about this event is that most local residents did not feel the ground motions of the earthquake. The tsunami was recorded by mid-Pacific tide gauges. It was 60 cm at Easter Island, and 25 cm at Hilo, Hawaii.